



# THE COMPTROLLER'S CORNER

## Keeping Pace

**W**e have a dedicated, well-trained work force in the Air Force financial management community. I know that from personal experience. During my nearly seven years as Air Force Comptroller, I have benefited greatly from your efforts.

I also believe we are doing lots of things right in Air Force Financial Management. We continue to execute budgets that meet the warfighters' most critical needs, even in the face of a fiscal climate that is tight and turbulent. We are aggressively introducing new systems and processes that streamline financial management, providing better service, and permitting us to get (a little) smaller. We are improving financial management, reducing erroneous and unsupported obligations and coming closer than any Service to an auditable budget statement.

While we are doing many things well, we will continue to face some daunting challenges in the years ahead. Budgets will remain tight. Pressure for improved financial management, to include auditable financial statements, will remain high. There will be considerable turnover in our FM community, particularly in our civilian work force as many of our key personnel reach retirement age.

That is why it is so important to plan for our future. Mr Speer's article on page 4 describes the Air Force Financial Management Strategic Plan 2000, which is designed to plot our course for the next several years.

The challenges of the future also put a premium on professional development. Only those with strong professional training will be able to meet the challenges we can expect to face. We hope that each of you will plan your professional career based on the Air Force FM guidelines for professional development. The article that starts on page 7 will help you do that.

Our vision is to provide the best financial support to the world's premier Air Force—anytime, anywhere. If we plan well, and attend to our professional development, we can do just that.

**ROBERT F. HALE**  
**Assistant Secretary of the Air Force**  
**(Financial Management and Comptroller)**